

tempt upon their liberty and property, is not repugnant to the oaths of allegiance.

Resolved unanimously, That subscriptions be opened in each hundred in this county, under the direction of the committee of the respective hundreds, for raising contributions, to supply the necessities, and alleviate the distresses of our oppressed brethren of Boston.

Resolved, That William Goodwin, Richard Moale, William Buchanan, and William Lux, be and are hereby empowered to purchase three thousand pounds of powder, and twelve thousand pounds of lead, on the credit of the subscriptions for the use of this county.

Resolved, That the committee meet at the courthouse on Wednesday the 2th of February next, to produce their several subscriptions.

Ordered, That these proceedings be published in the Maryland Gazette, the Baltimore Journal, and in hand-bills, to be circulated through the county.

Signed per order, J. T. CHASE, clerk.

At a meeting of the committee of observation appointed for Baltimore county, at the court-house in Baltimore-Town, on Tuesday the 17th of January, 1775.

WERE PRESENT,

Capt. CHARLES RIDGELY, in the chair. JEREMIAH TOWNLEY CHASE, clerk.

Samuel Purviance, John Moale, Thomas Sollers, Andrew Buchanan, Robert Alexander, John Mercer, William Smith, Nicholas Jones, Isaac Grift, Mark Alexander, William Randal, Gerard Hopkins, Philip Rogers, Dixon Stansbury, jun. Thomas Johnson, Benjamin Griffin, Charles Ridgely, son of John, John Craddock, Walter Tolley jun. James Calhoun, Benjamin Nicholson, John Deaver, Dr. John Boyd, George Lindenburger, Darby Lux, William Worthington, William Wilkinson, Jesse Bussey, Daniel Shaw, James Gittings, Barnet Eichelberger, Hercules Courtenay, Mordecai Gist, Job Garretson, James Croxall, John Cockey, Ezekiel Fowlen, George Matthews, Thomas Craddock, Richard Cromwell, Thomas Rutter, James Bosley, William Cromwell, Dr. Charles F. Wiesenthal, Thomas Ewing, William Lux, Richard Moale, Thomas Harrison, Archibald Buchanan, William Spear, John Smith, George Woolley, David McMechan, Mayberry Helms, and Nathan Cromwell.

INFORMATION being made to the committee, by Mr. Benjamin Nicholson, that the Rev. Mr. William Edmiston had publicly asserted, "That all persons, who mustered, were guilty of treason; and that such of them as had taken the oath of allegiance, and took up arms, were guilty of perjury." And that the said William Edmiston had "approved publicly of the Quebec bill."

The committee were of opinion, that such declarations have a tendency to defeat the measures, recommended for the preservation of America, and her liberties, and that it is their duty to take notice of persons guilty of such offences.

Whereupon, resolved unanimously, That this committee will meet at two o'clock, P. M. and that the Rev. Mr. Edmiston have notice to attend. A copy of the charge was made out by the clerk, and inclosed to Mr. Edmiston, with notice to attend.

TUESDAY, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The committee met according to adjournment. Present, the same members as were yesterday.

The Rev. Mr. Edmiston attended, agreeable to the notice given him; and requesting an indulgence of two hours, to prepare his answer; the same was unanimously granted.

The Rev. Mr. Edmiston appeared, and delivered to the chairman his answer in writing, as follows.

"After maturely considering the charges exhibited against me, before the committee, I observe in answer to them, that as mankind frequently differ in sentiment, and as no questions are agitated with greater warmth and intemperate zeal, than those in politics, so expressions are often used, and sentiments hastily adopted, at such times, which in the cool moments of reflection, men would omit, or disavow. That I spoke the words mentioned in the charge, is true—that they were spoken in warmth, is equally certain. With respect to that part of the charge, containing an accusation of perjury and treason upon those who had taken the oaths to the government, I would beg leave to explain myself. What I meant had a reference to the political opinions which prevail, and was founded conditionally, that is, they who do not apprehend a departure on the side of government, from fundamental express stipulations, could not, consistently with their oaths, arm or prepare for war; but I did not, and do not, mean to charge any person with perjury or treason, who really thinks that his rights are or may be so far invaded, as to justify resistance. As my political sentiments are different from what most people think at this time, concerning these matters; particularly as they are disagreeable to the gentlemen of the county, and may, contrary to my intention, have the unhappy tendency of spreading confusion among the inhabitants of my parish; I solemnly promise, to avoid giving any just cause of offence, by propagating hereafter any opinion opposite to the decisions of the continental congress, or provincial convention. And upon the most serious reflection, I disapprove of the Quebec bill, as it establishes the Roman catholic religion in the province of Quebec, abolishes the equitable system of English laws, and creates a tyranny there, to the great danger (from so total a dissimilarity of religion, law and government) of the neighbouring British colonies, by the assistance of whose blood and treasure the said country was conquered—I tenderly love my country—I wish for her prosperity, and devoutly pray, that the present contest may terminate to her advantage. And I sincerely hope, that brotherly love will bury in oblivion all animosity between me and my parishioners, with whom to live in harmony and peace is my warmest wish."

Jan. 17, 1775.

WILLIAM EDMISTON.

papers be printed, and forwarded to the several com-

The above being read and considered, was accepted. Ordered, That the same be published.

N. B. By particular desire, the names of the gentlemen of the committee, appointed the 12th of November last, are published.

Baltimore-Town.—Andrew Buchanan, Robert Alexander, William Lux, John Moale, John Merryman, Richard Moale, Jeremiah Townley Chase, Thomas Harrison, Archibald Buchanan, William Smith, James Calhoun, Benjamin Griffith, Gerard Hopkins, William Spear, John Smith, Barnet Eichelberger, George Woolley, Hercules Courtenay, Isaac Grift, Mark Alexander, Samuel Purviance, jun. Francis Saunderson, John Boyd, George Lindenburger, Isaac Vanbibber, Philip Rogers, David McMechan, Mordecai Gist, and John Deaver.

UNDREDS.

Patasco Lower.—Capt. Charles Ridgely, and Thomas Sollers.

Patasco Upper.—Zachariah McCubbin, Charles Ridgely, son of William, and Thomas Lloyd.

Back-River Upper.—Samuel Worthington, Benjamin Nicholson, Thomas Cockey Dye, John Craddock, Darby Lux, and William Randal.

Back-River Lower.—John Mercer, and Job Garretson.

Middle-River Upper.—Nicholas Merryman, and William Worthington.

Middle-River Lower.—Henry Dorsey Gough, and Walter Tolley, junior.

Soldier's Delight.—George Ristean, John Howard, Thomas Gist, senior, Thomas Worthington, Nathan Cromwell, and Nicholas Jones.

Middlesex.—Thomas Johnson, and Mayberry Helms.

De aware.—John Welsh, Rezin Hammond, and John Elder.

North.—Jeremiah Johnson, and Elisha Dorsey.

Pipe-Creek.—Richard Richards, Frederick Dicker, and Mordecai Hammond.

Gun-Powder Upper.—Walter Tolley, jun. James Gittings, and Thomas Franklin.

Mine-Run.—Dixon Stansbury, jun. and Josias Slade.

Prince George's county, Jan. 16, 1774.

At a meeting of a number of the freeholders, and other inhabitants, of Prince George's county, held this day in Upper Marlborough, for the purpose of choosing a committee of inspection, &c. JOHN ROGERS, Esq; was chosen chairman.

THE proceedings of the convention, held at Annapolis in December last, were read, and unanimously approved.

The committee of inspection, chosen here at the meeting in November last, was continued, and the following persons added thereto, viz. col. Joseph Sim, Thomas Contee, Benjamin Hall, son of Francis, Richard Bennet Hall, Clement Hill, Clement Hill, jun. Thomas Sim Lee, Stephen West, Basil Waring, ten Ignatius Digges, Notley Young, William Digges, William Digges, jun. George Digges, John Hill, Henry Hill, Fielder Bowie, Edward Boteler, Henry Rozer, John Fendall Beall, William Turner Wootton, Singleton Wootton, Edward Edelin, Marsham Waring, Thomas Clagett, Piscataway, John Baynes, John Hawkins Lowe, John Harrison, John Read Magruder, Benjamin Brookes, James Drane, Henry Brookes, Richard Carns, Jacob Green, John McGill, Thomas McGill, Leonard Brooke, capt. Henry Brooke, Dr. Joseph Digges, Thomas Duceett, Henry Humphrey, Charles Everfield, Robert Wade, jun. Barton Lucas, Henry Eoone, Edward Digges, Nicholas Brooke, Henry Hill, jun. Walter Hoxton, Benjamin Wales, John Duvall, jun. Clement Wheeler, Charles Haggart, Clement Hill, son of John, Benjamin Berry, jun. Frank Leake, Richard Contee, Jacob Duckett, Alexander Symmer, John Smith Brookes, Robert Waters, Arnold Waters, Richard Henderon, William Sydneybotham, Alexander Howard Magruder, Christopher Lowndes, Robert Dick, James Collings, John Beanes, Robert Darnall, Jeremiah Kiely, Richard Queen, Joseph Pope, Elisha Berry, Anthony Smith, James Smith, William Morton, John Boone, jun. Zachariah Berry, Daniel Stephenson, James Miller, Judson Coolidge, Christopher Richmond, George Naylor, jun. Henry Waring, and John Dorsett.

The committee of correspondence, chosen last November, was also continued, and the following gentlemen added thereto, viz. Thomas Sim Lee, Joseph Sim, Thomas Contee, Stephen West, Clement Hill, sen. Thomas Gantt, jun. Ignatius Digges, and Benjamin Hall, son of Francis.

The following gentlemen were chosen to attend the next provincial meeting at Annapolis, viz. Dr. Richard Brooke, Josias Beall, Robert Tyler, John Rogers, William Bowie, Walter Bowie, George Lee, Thomas Gantt, jun. Col. Joshua Beall, Osborn Sprigg, David Crawford, Col. Joseph Sim, Thomas Contee, Benjamin Hall, son of Francis, Luke Marbury, Stephen West, John Contee, and Thomas Sim Lee, and it was resolved, that any five or more of them have power to act.

The following gentlemen, viz. Addison Murchick, and Edward Sprigg, chosen to attend the last provincial meeting were discontinued at their own request, the state of their health not permitting them to attend.

It was recommended to the gentlemen of the committee of inspection for this county, to use their utmost diligence to procure subscriptions, to collect the same as soon as possible, and pay the money into the hands of Messrs. John Rogers, David Crawford, and Edw. Sprigg, of the committee of correspondence, and resolved, that the said committee, or a majority of them, of which the above gentlemen shall be a part, have authority to lay out the said money in the purchase of arms and ammunition, according to a resolution of the last provincial convention, and that fair accounts of the expenditure shall be kept, and ready to be laid before the general committee when required.

Ordered, That a sufficient number of subscription

mittee-men appointed for the said county, in order to forward the said subscriptions; and that the committee of correspondence take care to procure the said money, and pay for the same, out of the subscription money.

Ordered, That the proceedings of this day be published in the Maryland Gazette.

To the author of a hand-bill, addressed to the citizens of Annapolis, and of another to the citizens of Baltimore, under the same signature.

S I R, I SHOULD have left my hand-bill to shift for itself, as the odds are against it, considering the bulk and fury of its antagonists;—had it not been nated in my hearing a few days ago, that not being alarming my fellow citizens, and insinuating upon the necessity of their preparing themselves, to resist force, was upon the whole laudable; y<sup>e</sup>, upon the force, with which the American calls upon me into some excesses, not morally justifiable. But have this apology to plead, I shall no longer remain in silence; and the occasional remarks which grow out of the subject, I flatter myself, will be indulged with allowance.

In your address to the citizens of Annapolis, you are pleased to censure very roundly, certain authors, gentlemen for their pedantry, abuse, pride, arrogance, &c. &c. If you imagine that I am hardly enough to the lists in defence of persons who are not only not but arrogant and insolent into the bargain, I must deny all such knight-errantry. It is sufficient, I must say, I show the world how unhandfomely or rather ungraciously you have dealt with me, as the author of a hand-bill, consisting of twenty-one lines and a half, and couched in the plainest language. You cast in the place, a very unhandfome reflection upon my talents as a writer, by declaring my hand-bill to be a LUCUBRATION, written in a GLOOMY FIT. I deny that a single feature of a LUCUBRATION: it was the effect of a moment, and thrown upon paper without any or labour in broad daylight. And I scarce think it an adequate apology to say, that a great genius should be excused the pedantry of understanding the language he uses in the tumult of composition: humanity point out, that if there be the smallest danger of giving a blot to the reputation of a brother author, he should, whenever he draws his grey goose quill, keep his dictionary close at his elbow.

You say, that I have not advanced one word to the subject of your hand-bill—though—I declare to you very hand-bill to be written for the purpose of gaining private revenge. A sentiment in which a very great majority of the committee assembled on the occasion concurred with me, and expressed their abhorrence of the spirit which dictated it. In such terms, as to induce you to withdraw yourself from their body, and infer them by a letter, that you would not interfere in their consultations, until you were re-called: from whence I draw this comfortable conclusion, that if my soul is in jeopardy for a dashingly and groundless suggestion, the souls of messrs. of the committee are to run the same hazard, and a great wit has declared good company to be the only alleviation of the horrors of such a state. And here I shall take the liberty to suggest the true cause of this very unexpected turn of conduct in the committee towards you. They saw through the mockery of your pretending to hold forth those few as objects of contempt, whom at the same time you represented as the of crafty, blood-thirsty miscreants, lying in wait to rise to riches and preferment on the ruins and confiscation of the public; and banqueting on the hope of one day seeing the best and firmest friends to the people, led to ignominious executions, or butchered by the sword of a merciless conqueror. They figured you un-maidenly and in your proper character, letting slip the dogs of havoc and revenge—the moment they cast their eyes over the following passage in your first hand-bill, "we fail they will possess their estates, and enjoy their offices—promotion may reward their present conduct and their resentment may be gratified by seeing some of your best friends executed as rebels and traitors"—upon which passage I shall make no further remark, but that it would seem entirely inconsistent with the character of a hero, to discover, that instead of employing every faculty of his soul to bring the business he is embarked in, to a prosperous issue, he is perpetually looking forward to the most frightful images of the punishment he dreads. If his cause should miscarry.—You are so unreasonable as to be angry with me for making a point of the desperate state of your fortune and reputation, without considering how just it is, that every man's influence in a struggle of this peculiar nature, should bear some proportion to the honour and fortune he has at stake. And that I might be justified in making a stand upon this ground, by the maxims of certain grave politicians, whom, to avoid the charge of pedantry, I shall forbear mentioning.—You accuse me of envying you—the ingenious author of Tom Jones, has introduced us into the chamber of Mr. Bliffl, shedding tears of repentance, after his detection because the power of doing any further mischief to his fellow creatures was wrested from him. He has pronounced him to be an object of envy, only to a man who was going to be hanged—as much as I revere the judgment of this writer, I will be bold to differ from him. He could not be an object of envy to any human being, therefore it is less surprising that you also should fall into a mistake, respecting the proper object of this detestable passion.—You say, I assert, that your hand-bills were circulated in a particular part of this county, and only sent to Elk-Ridge—the record bears evidence against you.—Turn to the hand-bill—I say, I was informed so—and my information was accurate enough to justify the conclusions I drew from it, that your principal, if not only hope was in factours from that quarter, as the bulk of your dispatches were actually sent thither.—You

of three into different part of the of giving them an head, affects my hon to acknowledge, th and the limits of this E[st]; with a letter a om if you were not return, I willingly co capacity in him, as rat genius, free from ted in his morals, ruth of which, I can and his no less celest reon, and to his se done to his fellow ci n. You deny, if yo you ever threatened of the Elk-Ridge; A of bodily strength, w ended with a cudgel, ch being refused him ed, I suppose, by so berty of the press) to eather the printer i ther in history or ro ns, and pour down th ore, upon his house you; if he did not, yo is a dilemma, out of to help him, one w himself; but I don't red to breathe, and e accounts of marriages tuted, for sale, and ally tending to enl impartial view of th ing crisis. NOTORIOUS, that wh clothe yourself in pe bring down a num age you can point at y appears, from the cent occasion; that th melves. You threat the same quarter, cert ore, arrogantly enou are they thought wron their crime. threat, you say, was e of the citizens.—Yo legates of this provin ence of a great majo many strangers, thro some trifling fre dom could assassinate him if y he was asleep, and n me, so bloodily, that not known who migh ned wrath—the oper ves and music of th ceived than described a grave countenan ard. Now, sir, I erous, beyond measur ing obstacles are in theed a fallhood. a truth, I shall find, th are neither deficient i rejoice for the honou resent, with becoming dually, when an affro firmly persuaded, that miserably wedded to ver the grossest public foremost ranks of wa e safety and glory of f ngue in the hour of nder of profession—ts of the Citizen's th men—he would scor fures himself that the him for vigorously r that you heretofore certain individuals they were but little tion. It is an un one article in your , for no mortal, eit ng to the best inform ed by you from vio if you had not unfort ally bound to serve ed the vivacity of my Henry St, armed at all severity of remarks, m you. What an inimic here wrought up, by it in the same breath vivacity of the piece e is characteristic and You conceive, that I extend our views to all respects prepared t you could be meant t. You as a member of ble of interpreting thous. But were I su only reasoning the na buld suggest that this tion, inasmuch as it w in the infancy of th supposed to have th subject, that a civil w pension of our trad necessity of ever dra argued: that the Briti were stopped up an verbal convulsion.